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# *Does Knowledge of Dating Violence Keep Deaf College Students at Gallaudet University Out of Abusive Relationships?*

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## Abstract

Domestic violence is a pervasive and insidious phenomenon in the United States and in the world. Studies of intimate partner violence among people with disabilities are scant and even more scarce for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. The research questions guiding this study are: How much do Gallaudet students know about intimate partner violence, and how many students have experienced abuse in their intimate relationships? The survey sample included a nonrandomized sample of 226 deaf and hard of hearing students at Gallaudet University. Results revealed that the students knew a great deal about intimate partner violence and answered multiple-choice questions from 71% to 96% of the time correctly, with one exception related to police arrests. Out of 185 respondents who answered the questions about current and past intimate relationships, 16.2% reported being in an abusive relationship and 26.78% reported being in an abusive relationship previously. An ANOVA indicated a main effect on resolving conflicts and abuse scores, indicating that those who had difficulty resolving conflicts were more likely to have experienced an abusive relationship. The author discusses distrust of police, cultural loyalty, and issues that may affect whether deaf and hard of hearing people report abuse.

*Keywords: domestic violence, intimate partner violence, deaf, hard of hearing, college students*

## Introduction

Domestic violence is sometimes called intimate partner violence or dating violence<sup>1</sup>, if the abuse occurs during a dating, rather than marital, relationship. The phenomenon is pervasive and insidious in the United States and in the world. Domestic violence is defined by the Human Rights Watch (2003) as "...physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse that takes place in the context of an intimate relationship, including marriage." Hallmarks of domestic violence include: physical violence, sexual and emotional abuse, intimidation, economic deprivation, and threats of violence (Carretta, 2008). The types of behaviors that are considered to be intimate partner violence include: a) physical acts, like pushing, hitting, slapping, burning, and using weapons, b) psychological acts against the victim, such as isolating, blaming, withholding emotion, threatening suicide, and tracking activities, c) economic exploitation, such as withholding money,

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of clarification, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and dating violence are used interchangeably to mean physical, psychological, verbal, and sexual violence within the context of an intimate relationship.

stealing money, not paying bills, ruining the victim's credit, and other acts that involve manipulation through the use of finances, d) sexual abuse, including threats or pressure to have sex, forced sex, or manipulation of the victim using sexual coercion, and e) stalking, such as tracing the victims' activities, following the victim, harassment using cellular phones, e-mail, phone calls, and other invasive manipulations in the context of an intimate or marriage relationship (American Bar Association, 2008; Human Rights Watch, 2003).

In a study conducted by the World Health Organization (2005), researchers reported prevalence rates of domestic violence in the United States at approximately 28% and global prevalence between 20%-50% depending upon the country. Many suspect that incidents of abuse are underreported (Dutton & Corvo, 2006; U.S. Department of Justice, 1998). In a survey of 16,000 American men and women, 22.1% of the women and 7.1% of the men reported experiences of domestic violence in their intimate relationships (Carretta, 2008). In 2003, 521,740 incidents of violent crimes between intimate partners were reported (Catalano, 2004). The Federal Bureau of Investigation (2004) reported that nine percent of murder victims were killed by their spouse or intimate partner. Most victims of domestic violence and death due to domestic violence are female; however, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief (2003), 15% of the victims are men. Domestic violence cuts across cultures, sexual orientation, race, age, gender, and socioeconomic status.

The research about intimate partner violence among people with disabilities is scant and is virtually absent with regard to people who are deaf and hard of hearing. The absence of research specifically about disabled or deaf and hard of hearing people mistakenly implies that the problem does not exist or that the numbers of survivors are so small that they do not warrant public attention. There are many in the deaf community<sup>2</sup> who know that violence occurs in their community. Similar to other minority groups, the nature of the deaf community and its culture may have some unique issues that may affect the occurrence of violence and whether or not survivors or perpetrators seek help. The Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Series (ADWAS), based in Seattle is an advocacy and training organization specifically designed to address abuse of deaf women. The publications disseminated by this group include training manuals about domestic violence in the deaf community,

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<sup>2</sup> *The term deaf community refers to those individuals who identify themselves as members of the deaf community and use American Sign Language as their primary communication mode.*

deaf teen sexual assault, safety, and surviving assault. However, even with advocacy, training, and education efforts, research in this area is still lacking. This study represents an initial step designed to uncover facets of intimate partner violence within a segment of the deaf community. The aim of this research study is to investigate dating violence as it relates to deaf students at Gallaudet University. The literature review offers an overview of domestic and dating violence as it relates to the larger community, the community of disabled persons, and finally, the deaf community.

## Literature Review

### *Prevalence of Domestic Violence among Members of Diverse Groups*

In the United States, many members of diverse groups report a high incidence of domestic or dating abuse in comparison to a prevalence rate of around 25% for domestic violence during a person's lifetime. Prevalence reports within diverse groups vary in range from about 18% to about 61%. Several studies report specific prevalence rates among immigrant groups: 44-47% of Cambodians residing in Boston (Yoshioka, et al., 2004); 18.1% of Chinese men and women in Los Angeles ( $N = 262$ ) reported receiving "minor physical violence" by a partner (Yick, 2000); 20% of undocumented Filipina women living in San Francisco ( $N = 54$ ), reported abuse in their country of origin or in the United States (Hogeland & Rosen, 1991); 61% of Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans in Los Angeles ( $N = 211$ ) reported experiencing some form of domestic violence (Yoshihama & Gillespie, 2002); 48% of Latina reported domestic violence that occurred against them since they emigrated from their home countries to the United States (Dutton, 2000); and African Americans experience deadly violence from family members and significantly more domestic violence compared to whites (Perry, 2004; Rennison, 2001; Rennison & Welchans, 2000).

Studies consistently report that domestic and dating violence also occur in same-sex relationships. One study reported violence in 11% of lesbian relationships and in 15% of gay male relationships (Tjaden, 2003). According to Dolan-Soto and Kaplan (2005), 88% of the victims in 2003 and 91% of victims in same-sex relationships in 2004 reported having prior incidents of domestic and/or dating violence at least 10 or more times. Studies also report that prevalence rates among same-sex couples are similar to heterosexual couples in their frequency, manifestations, environmental situations, victims' reactions, and reasons for staying. These studies indicate

approximately 25% of same sex couples report domestic violence issues. Unemployment, substance abuse, and low self-esteem are also associated with domestic violence. The victims' reactions of fear, helplessness, and hypervigilance coupled with denial about staying are also similar to that of heterosexual couples.

### *Abuse of People with Disabilities*

While literature abounds with research among different groups of people (ethnic and racial minorities, elders, same-sex couples, children, teenagers, etc.), research about domestic violence among disabled persons is scant. Because people with disabilities often have additional issues they must face in life, some of these issues may make them more vulnerable to domestic or dating violence (Brodwin & Siu, 2007; Nosek, Howland, Rintala, Young, & Chanpong, 2001; Nosek, Foley, Hughes, & Howland, 2001). One study showed 62% of women with disabilities reported a history of domestic violence by their intimate partners (Nosek, Howland, Rintala, Young, & Chanpong). In 2002, the Colorado Department of Health indicated that up to 85% of their female clients with disabilities reported incidents of abuse at some points in their lives (Hassouneh-Phillips & Curry, 2002).

There are some factors that may impact people with disabilities in ways that do not ordinarily impact people without them. Persons with mobility impairments may be dependent upon others for ambulation, medication management, and personal care (Brodwin & Siu, 2007). There may be increased isolation and a lack of support and resources in the community. Because of their conditions, some may be vulnerable to exploitation or manipulation from predators. Cognitive impairments may prevent recognition of abuse and may pose a barrier to seeking and obtaining help in an abusive situation. Some persons with disabilities may not be knowledgeable about domestic violence and their rights. They may have limited education about what is considered abuse, particularly with sexual, emotional, and economic types of abuse. Difficulties with communication may also prevent persons with disabilities from obtaining the support, resources, and help they need to navigate the myriad of systems that are activated with a report of abuse.

In a qualitative study of 25 women with disabilities who experienced domestic violence, results revealed several themes experienced by participants (Copel, 2006). Respondents reported an accumulation of stressful issues that affected the women on a daily basis. All reported financial difficulties

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and a lack of resources for maintaining their lives. Some said that complex medical and health issues contributed to their stress. Others explained that the accumulation of stress exceeded their ability to effectively cope with their abuse. Respondents reported an escalation of arguments and abusive behavior as the stress in their lives increased. The women explained that abuse first began verbally, and then progressed to an episode of violence. For those whose disability arose after marriage, the first episodes of abuse were associated with the onset of the disability and the subsequent changes in roles and responsibilities.

In a study of 504 women with disabilities, 181 respondents answered questions specifically related to abuse (Nosek, Foley, Hughes, & Howland, 2001). Results revealed several disability-related aspects to the domestic violence. Respondents reported that the perpetrators often used their partners' disabilities as the reasons for emotional abandonment and rejection. In relationships with physical abuse, abusers used various types of confinement and restraint to control their partners. Sexual abuse occurred in the form of fondling or forced sexual activity in return for the perpetrator's assistance with daily needs. Sometimes the physical environment helped to create feelings of isolation among the women, especially among those with communication difficulties and limited mobility.

### *Abuse of Persons who are Deaf*

While there is limited research on the abuse of people with disabilities, literature reporting on the abuse of people who are deaf or hard of hearing is even scarcer. Some studies indicate that children who are deaf or hard of hearing may be at higher risk of sexual abuse than non-deaf children with disabilities (Embry & Grossman, 2006/2007; Sullivan & Knutson, 1998; Teichroeb, 2003; Vernon & Miller, 2003). Sullivan and Knutson (1998) speculated that:

Communication problems inherent in many disabilities render children unable to understand and/or verbalize episodes of abuse. Such children are unable to report that they have been victimized and absent the unlikely event of an eye witness or a confession, incidents of abuse of children with disabilities do not readily come to the attention of child protective service or law enforcement personnel. (p. 297)

In a large epidemiological study of maltreated children with disabilities cited by Sullivan and Knutson (1998), children with disabilities were 1.8 times more likely to be neglected, 1.6 times more likely to be physically abused, and 2.2 times more likely to be sexually abused than non-disabled children. A significantly higher percentage of those who were deaf or hard of hearing endured more neglect, physical abuse, and multiple forms of abuse than children in the general population. The researchers found that the prevalence rate of abuse for children with disabilities was 64%.

In Sullivan and Knutson's study (1998) of 312 deaf and hard of hearing children, the researchers found that the most prevalent types of maltreatment were neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse (in descending order) usually from their parents. They found that children who are deaf and hard of hearing were 1.4 times more likely to be neglected and two times more likely to be physically abused. Their findings are consistent with other studies that show communication barriers may increase the risk of abuse.

While the studies of abuse among deaf and hard of hearing students are few, research studies about domestic or dating violence that involve deaf and hard of hearing adults were difficult to locate. Without an adequate literature base upon which to rely, data must be presented descriptively sample by sample. This study is a preliminary step to gather data about intimate partner violence among deaf and hard of hearing college students. With that in mind, there are two primary research questions for this research study:

1. How much do Gallaudet students know about dating violence?
2. How many of these students have experienced abuse in their intimate relationships?

## **Methodology**

### *Participants*

The survey sample included a non-randomized group of 226 deaf and hard of hearing students who attend Gallaudet University. The researcher recruited students in a common area of the university. Interested students (whether or not they were in a relationship currently) were given the survey and the answer key to the Dating Violence questionnaire. Fifty-eight percent ( $n = 127$ ) were female and 42% ( $n = 92$ ) were male. Most of the sample (75.8%,  $n = 169$ ) were between the ages of 18 to 29. Half of the sample was white (50.9%,  $n = 112$ ); 15.9% ( $n = 35$ ) were African-American; 7.7% ( $n =$

17) were Latino; 6.8% ( $n = 15$ ) were Asian American. The remaining sample was comprised of Native Americans (5.5%), biracial individuals (1.4%) and "other" (8.2%).

### *Measures*

The questionnaire was a 20-item instrument excluding demographic questions and contained three subscales:

*Dating Violence Quiz:* This questionnaire is a 14-item quiz testing respondents' knowledge about dating violence. This standardized instrument was created by the Atlantic County Women's Center (available online at <http://www.ncdsv.org/images/Dating%20Violence%20Quiz.pdf>). The instrument consists of six true/false items and eight multiple-choice items about various aspects of dating violence. At the end of the quiz, respondents add their scores and compare their answers to the answer key.

*Woman Abuse Screening Tool (WAST) – Short Version:* The original version of WAST is a standardized seven-item questionnaire designed to be a screening tool for use in a variety of practice settings. The first two items of this instrument comprise the short version to assess the degree of relationship tension and the amount of difficulty a person and his/her partner have in resolving arguments. Each question is answered on a 3-point scale: 1 = no tension, 2 = some tension, and 3 = a lot of tension. Sherin, et al. (2003) reported a Cronbach's alpha of .80 for the HITS scale. The WAST instrument is also strongly correlated with the Conflict Tactics Scale ( $r = .85$ ).

*HITS Scale:* This standardized four-item instrument is a brief and efficient measure of the frequency with which abuse occurs in a relationship. Each question is answered on a five-point scale: 1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = fairly often, and 5 = frequently. Answers to the HITS scale are added to form an interval level of measurement. Studies report a Cronbach's alpha of .80 and a strong correlation with the Conflict Tactics Scale ( $r = .85$ ) (Chen, Rovi, Vega, Jacobs, Johnson, 2005; Sherin, Sinacore, Li, Zitter, Shakil, 1998). The instruments measuring abuse included current and previous relationships as separate sections in the survey.

### **Procedures**

Following IRB approval, participants were voluntarily recruited from common areas on campus to participate in the study. Prior to recruitment,



the researcher contacted the executive director of a local agency that serves deaf and hard of hearing survivors of domestic violence. The director was alerted of the data collection timelines and was prepared to accept requests for assistance should the participants need support. The researcher explained the purpose of the study and reviewed confidentiality guidelines, the risks, and benefits to participating in the study.

After consent, participants were given the questionnaire. Time for completion was approximately 15 minutes. When participants completed the questionnaire, the researcher provided an answer sheet for the dating violence quiz and guidelines for scoring the WAST and HITS instruments in order to allow self-scoring. In addition, they were provided with a list of local resources for deaf and hard of hearing people who were or are in abusive relationships. Because all participants were given the scoring sheet and local resources, they were better able to decide about whether to contact any of the resources available to them and avoid being identified publicly as someone in an abusive relationship.

## Results

### *Gallaudet Student's Knowledge of Dating Violence*

Results from the dating violence quiz indicate that the majority of the sample was knowledgeable about the types of violence and factors influencing violence in dating relationships. The percentage of correct answers on the dating violence quiz ranged from 70.8% to 96.0%. In the true/false portion of the dating violence quiz, the majority of respondents knew the correct answers; there was only one question in which less than half of the sample answered correctly. In the multiple choice section of the dating violence quiz, the majority of the respondents knew the correct answers. Table 1 describes the frequency of correct answers by item.

### *Students who Experienced Abuse in Intimate Relationships*

Interestingly, only 185 out of 226 respondents answered the questions assessing the degree of tension and the amount of difficulty the couple had in resolving arguments (WAST). Out of those, 55.7% ( $n = 103$ ) described their relationships as having either some or a lot of tension. Most respondents, 63.6% ( $n = 117$ ), reported that they can resolve relationship problems or arguments with some or a lot of difficulty.

Approximately 180 students answered the questions measuring the frequency with which abuse occurs (HITS scale). Of those, 11.4% ( $n = 21$ ) reported that their partner physically hurts them at least sometimes and at most, a lot. About a quarter, 24.4% ( $n = 44$ ), reported that their partner insults or talks mean to them; 10.5% ( $n = 19$ ) reported that their partner threatens them with physical harm. Finally, 31.8% ( $n = 58$ ), indicated that their partner yells or talks angry to them. When scores were calculated for the HITS scale, 16.2% of 180 respondents were considered to be in an abusive relationship (that is, those with a total score of 10 or higher). Another 4.4% were only one point away from scoring as an abusive relationship.

Seventy out of 226 respondents reported that they experienced abuse in past relationships. Of those, 25.7% ( $n = 18$ ) reported that their partner hurt them physically; 27.1% ( $n = 19$ ) reported that their previous partner insulted or talked mean to them; 26.1% ( $n = 18$ ) reported that their previous partner threatened them with physical harm; 28.2% ( $n = 20$ ) reported that their previous partners yelled or talked angry to them. When the scores were calculated, 26.78% of the students had been in abusive relationships in the past.

A factorial ANOVA was used to compare the dependent variable, HITS score (i.e., whether or not the participant is in an abusive relationship), with two independent variables, the amount of tension (variable: tension) in a relationship and the degree of difficulty in resolving conflicts (variable: resolve). The ANOVA indicated a main effect on the resolving conflicts variable ( $F = 5.138$ , 2,  $p = .007$ ). There were no significant differences on the amount of tension and the interaction between tension and resolve. Post hoc  $t$ -tests with Bonferroni corrections were run and revealed a significant difference in abuse scores from those who had a lot of difficulty resolving conflicts and those who had no difficulty resolving conflicts ( $p = .001$ ).

## Discussion

### *Knowledge of Dating Violence*

The data indicated that the majority of the students knew quite a bit about the causes and factors influencing dating violence. A large proportion of the sample (those with at least 85% of the respondents answering correctly) were able to demonstrate knowledge about a variety of issues involving dating violence, such as: behavioral indicators of a violent relationship, the

contributions of drugs and alcohol to violence, the cyclic nature of violence, ways of helping others who are in abusive relationships, reasons for staying in an abusive relationship, indicators of loving relationships, and how to keep safe in dating relationships. The university offers regularly scheduled educational workshops about abuse and violence, which may account for the high level of knowledge. However, one false statement, "Police hardly ever make arrests in dating violence situations," was answered incorrectly by approximately 53% of the sample. This finding begs the question whether the number of police arrests is indeed lower when dating and/or domestic violence occurs between deaf people.

### *Distrust of the Police*

In the literature, a number of studies with culturally diverse groups indicate a general distrust of the police (Carretta, 2008; Nosek, et. al, 2001; Pyles & Kim, 2006; Shim & Hwang, 2005; Sokoloff, 2004). Shim and Hwang (2005) reported that "...police have historically been agents in the oppression of people of color and the poor" (p. 314). Relationships between law enforcement agencies and the judicial system have historically been marked by distrust and suspicion by members of diverse communities. This distrust within the context of historical discrimination and oppression may lead to fear of reporting the abuse or a lack of faith that justice will prevail once the abuse is reported. In numerous studies, researchers report the same phenomenon across multiple cultural groups, such as Koreans (Shim & Hwang, 2005), African Americans (Bent-Goodley, 2004), South Asians and Mexicans (Sokoloff, 2004), and other marginalized groups (Pyles & Kim, 2006), including people with disabilities (Nosek, Foley, & Howland, 2001).

Police arrests of perpetrators have been inconsistent (Shim & Hwang, 2005) and have lead to escalation of abuse several months later (Dutton & Corvo, 2006). Many people from diverse ethnic groups believe that the police are culturally insensitive to their needs (Pyles & Kim, 2006). They report problems with legal biases from laws regarding custody and legal rights putting them at a disadvantage in the justice system (Carretta, 2008).

### *Communication and Social Influences*

Members of diverse groups who speak languages other than English are often at a disadvantage because of limited legal literacy (Carretta, 2008).

Culturally Deaf people who use American Sign Language as their native language may have barriers similar to those who do not read, write, or speak English. American Sign Language is a language that differs from English in its structure and grammar. Limited ability to communicate with professionals in the English-speaking world may lead to limited visibility in the social and political systems, thus greatly limiting the access and effectiveness of interventions (Carretta, 2008; Pyles & Kim, 2006; Sokoloff, 2004).

Communication barriers present complex social problems that affect a range of issues from reporting of domestic violence to receiving treatment. Limited ability to speak English influences accessibility to the entire range of services, from law enforcement to treatment (Bent-Goodley, 2004; Carretta, 2008; Crowe, 2003; Shim & Hwang, 2005). It reduces the access and effectiveness of education-related materials. The lack of certified interpreters further complicates the situation, thus affecting the survivors' knowledge about legal procedures, rights, and access to treatment options.

The fear of incarceration may also affect whether a violent incident is reported (Bent-Goodley, 2004; Carretta, 2008; Shim & Hwang, 2005). A deaf person may be particularly vulnerable in a prison because he is seen as someone who has a limited ability to disclose an assault to officers. Survivors may feel guilt and fear about sending an abuser to prison, knowing that the experience for the deaf perpetrator may be particularly brutal. Likewise, the perception of unfair treatment by police, the justice system, and even advocates may hinder a report.

Finally, cultural loyalty may be a factor that inhibits reports to the police (Bent-Goodley, 2004). Deaf people may fear exposing their community to embarrassment. The deaf community is insular in that it not only has its own language, but it also has an entire social system that is close-knit and generally closed to outsiders. Deaf people all across the United States have vast networks that allow them to know and communicate with one another. If they do not know one another directly, a few names of contacts will certainly create a thread that connects them.

Some deaf people may prefer to handle the problem within the community rather than risk exposure to societal biases, unfair treatment within social systems, and frustration with the lack of interpreters or communication access. The Deaf cultural network is tight and small, making anonymity virtually impossible. The survivor and perpetrator can suffer repeated shame

and humiliation of the incident for long periods of time as the news travels the grapevine.

### *Knowledge of Dating Violence and the Presence of Abuse*

The results indicate that although students know a lot about dating violence, many are involved in current relationships that are abusive. Of the seventy respondents who reported having previous relationships, a significant proportion of them (between 26-28%) reported a history of abusive relationships and approximately 16% report being in an abusive relationship currently. The prevalence rates of this study are consistent with the prevalence rates of other studies with college students in the general population (Nabors, Dietz, & Jasinski, 2006; Ramisetty-Mikler, Goebert, Nishimura, & Caetano, 2006).

Dutton and Corvo (2006) analyzed multiple studies about the Duluth Method, a psychoeducational approach, for perpetrators of violence. They gleaned from research on the topic that this psychoeducational approach to treatment alone is ineffective and disregards the complex psychological, interpersonal, situational, and cultural factors that influence whether or not abuse stops in the relationship. Though their research and that of many others focuses primarily on perpetrators, one must wonder if the same factors are in play for the survivors. According to the results of the present study, it seems that knowledge about intimate partner violence is not enough to help deaf people avoid abusive relationships. The data from this study also indicated a significant relationship between being in an abusive relationship and being able to resolve conflicts. Perhaps a different type of intervention, one that incorporates psychodynamic and social processes, would be more effective. Rote identification of behavioral characteristics and antecedents may not tap into the underlying issues that help decide whether one should stay in an abusive relationship. In fact, this type of exercise leads one to externalize knowledge of violence and further pushes it from self-reflection and application to one's life. Perhaps a more personal and individualized approach, such as psychotherapy or couples counseling, would be a better use of governmental and agency funds.

### **Strengths and Limitations of this Study**

This study was conducted at Gallaudet University, which is designed for deaf and hard of hearing students. The context in which the sample

was selected is unique because there are few places, if any, where a large number of deaf students congregate. This environment made selection of the participants possible. However, the sample was not randomly selected, which would have served to reduce threats to internal and external validity. Still, the sample represented a little over 10% of the student body.

Participants in the sample were relatively young. The demographics of the sample may not accurately represent the larger group of deaf adults who are not in college or who are older.

### **Implications for Practice and Future Research**

Several factors were not included in this study. Although students seemed to know a lot about this topic, the researcher did not ask from where the information was learned. Further exploration into the ways in which deaf adults and children learn about relationships and learn how to cope with tension and strain may be informative. The study should be expanded to include a national sample of deaf and hard of hearing people. An understanding of factors leading one to become involved in a violent relationship, especially in the deaf community, may be an important component for appropriate educational and support programs to include. Just because a person is aware of domestic violence and its causes does not necessarily create a meaningful application to one's own life. In fact, investigation of the gap between knowledge and practice in one's life may provide insight into a number of social problems that affect deaf people, such as HIV/AIDS prevention, tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, as well as domestic violence.

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**Table 1: *Percentage of Correct Answers on the Dating Violence Questionnaire***

Item	Percentage of sample who answered correctly	N
Dating violence is rare among high school students, college students and other students. (T/F)	74.8	169
When someone leaves a relationship, the abuse usually ends. (T/F)	83.6	189
Drug and/or alcohol abuse is often a factor in dating violence incidents. (T/F)	86.7	196
The best way to get a friend to leave an abusive relationship is to “cut ties” with them. (T/F)	57.1	128
If violence occurs once in a dating relationship, it is likely to happen again. (T/F)	88.1	199
Police hardly ever make arrests in dating violence situations. (T/F)	47.1	106
What kind of behavior could be considered a sign of relationship abuse? (MC)	96.5	218
What’s a good way to help a friend who’s in an abusive relationship? (MC)	93.8	212
True love is...(MC)	70.8	160
Why do people abuse their partners? (MC)	74.2	168
Which of the following behaviors could be considered a sign of dating violence? (MC)	96.0	217
Which of the following may be a reason a person would have a difficult time leaving an abusive relationship? (MC)	90.7	205
Which of the following is an important part of a healthy, loving relationship? (MC)	87.9	199
How do you keep safe in a dating relationship? (MC)	95.6	216

T/F = True/false items MC = Multiple choice items